



UN Association of the UK climate change conference series 2008-09

Northern Ireland: Belfast

6 November 2008

Grosvenor House
5 Glengall Street
Belfast
BT12 5AD

the climate challenge

*A CALL TO
ACTION*

About the Conference Series

The Climate Challenge: A Call to Action is a series of conferences on climate change being held throughout the UK in 2008-09. Organised by the UN Association of the UK in association with its local partners, the series aims to equip delegates with practical ideas for reducing individual CO₂ emissions, evaluate government climate policy, and take stock of progress in UN-led negotiations towards a strengthened global climate deal.

Other objectives are to:

- build support among the public and business community for immediate action by the UK government to promote the shift to a low-carbon, high-growth economy
- reconfigure climate change so that it is understood as not only an environmental problem but also a threat to security, health and prosperity
- make the case that climate change needs to be understood as both a significant economic threat and an enormous economic opportunity for small- and medium-sized businesses
- consider ways in which development strategies should be calibrated to encourage low-carbon, high-growth outcomes in developing countries
- highlight the changes needed to strengthen international institutional capacity for addressing climate change

The first conference of the series was held in Birmingham on 7 June 2008. The next conference will take place in Swansea on 13 March 2009.

To find out more www.una.org.uk/climate

About the Organiser

UNA-UK: for a strong, credible and effective United Nations

The UN Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading independent policy authority on the United Nations and a grassroots membership organisation with a network of supporters throughout the UK.

UNA-UK raises awareness about the UN and its work, stimulates thought and debate about how best to strengthen the UN's institutions and make them more accountable, and campaigns for strong UK support for the UN and its agencies.

To join UNA-UK visit www.una.org.uk

UNA-UK is grateful to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for its financial support for this initiative.

Programme

- 09:30 REGISTRATION**
Tea and coffee available
- 10:00 CONFERENCE OPENS**
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tom Hartley
- 10:05 INTRODUCTION BY CONFERENCE CHAIR**
Hilary Sloan, Chair of UNA Northern Ireland and a member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors
- 10:10 'DESPERATELY SEEKING CARBON: STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PLAYERS' (Keynote)**
Dr Bernard Bulkin, Commissioner for Energy and Transport at the UK Sustainable Development Commission
- 11:00 NETWORKING BREAK 1** Time to browse stalls. Tea and coffee available
- 11:20 'CLIMATE, SCARCITY AND MULTILATERALISM'**
Alex Evans, Fellow at the Center on International Cooperation, New York University
- 12:00 'CHALLENGING EUROPE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE'**
Claire Hanna, Challenge Europe Northern Ireland Climate Advocate
- 12:15 LUNCH** With networking time and opportunity to browse stalls
- 13:15 CHAIR RECONVENES CONFERENCE**
- 13:20 'TIME NOW FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION OF PLANETARY RIGHTS?'**
Polly Higgins, Environmental lawyer and UK Associate of EnAct International
- 14:00 'INSPIRING INDIVIDUAL ACTION'**
Trewin Restorick, CEO of Global Action Plan and one of Al Gore's UK climate change ambassadors
- 14:40 NETWORKING BREAK 2** Time to browse stalls. Tea and coffee available
- 15:00 CLIMATE CHANGE IN NORTHERN IRELAND** A panel discussion with:
Malachy Campbell, Policy Officer, WWF Northern Ireland
Professor Sue Christie, Director, Northern Ireland Environment Link
Dr Tim Walker, Head of Waste Management, Belfast City Council
John Woods, Director, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland
- 15:50 CLOSING REMARKS BY CONFERENCE CHAIR**
- 16:00 END**

Speaker biographies

TOM HARTLEY

Councillor Tom Hartley is the Lord Mayor of Belfast. He is a member of Sinn Féin and was elected Lord Mayor in June 2008. He is 62 years old and represents the Lower Falls area. Councillor Hartley has been involved with Sinn Féin for the last 40 years and this year will mark his 16th year as a member of Belfast City Council (having been elected in 1993 and having served on the Council ever since). He is a member of the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Board and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners Board. He is a keen supporter of tourism initiatives and arts projects in Belfast. A familiar figure cycling throughout the city, Councillor Hartley is also an environmental campaigner and historian. He has written a number of books, including *Written in Stone* – about the history of the Belfast City Cemetery.

HILARY SLOAN

Hilary is the Chair of the UN Association of Northern Ireland and a member of the UN Association of the UK's Board of Directors. She has expertise in the areas of education and human rights. She initially taught in Dublin before going to Madras in South India where she was head of the English department in a teacher training college. On her return to Northern Ireland she lectured at Stranmillis Teacher Training College Belfast before moving on to teach English and adult literacy in the Northern Ireland Prison Service for 12 years. Until she retired in 2005, she was a lecturer in Communication Studies at Queen's University Belfast. She has been on the Board of Directors of Enterprise Ulster and of Belfast Metropolitan College. Hilary is currently on the Belfast Education and Library Board and chairs the education (schools) committee for Belfast. In 2007 she was awarded the MBE for services to education in Northern Ireland. She has also served as Chairperson of Christian Aid's Development Education Committee, and has been on the Management Committee of Belfast's Centre for Global Education.

DR BERNARD BULKIN

Bernie sits on the UK Sustainable Development Commission, the government watchdog on sustainable development, and chairs its climate change, energy and transport group. He is also a member of the government's energy board. Bernie is a leading voice on issues related to energy and environment, and was formerly Chief Scientist of BP. His activities span business, government advisory, and educational roles. He is Chairman of AEA Technology, a leading environmental consultancy, Chairman of Swedish company Chemrec AB, and a board member of Severn Trent plc and Accelergy Corporation. He is venture partner with Vantage Point, associated with their Clean Tech practice. He is a Professorial Fellow of New Hall, University of Cambridge, and serves on numerous charitable boards. He is the author of more than a hundred papers and two books.

ALEX EVANS

Alex is a non-resident fellow at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University, where he runs CIC's work on climate change and global public goods. From 2003 to 2006, Alex worked as Special Adviser to Hilary Benn MP, then Secretary of State for International Development. Prior to joining the Department for International Development (DFID), Alex worked in a range of other climate and energy-focused roles, including as the head of the climate and energy research programme of the Institute for Public Policy Research (2002-2003), as a specialist on emissions trading at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2002), as the communications director at the Global Commons Institute (2000-2002), and as a political consultant on climate and energy policy (1998-1999). He also co-edits www.globaldashboard.org, the global risk and foreign policy blog.

CLAIRE HANNA

Claire is Campaigns and Communications Officer for Concern Worldwide and represents the agency on the Climate Change Coalition Northern Ireland. She recently visited Bangladesh to view the impact climate change is having on extremely poor communities that Concern works with. Claire is a participant in the British Council's Challenge Europe project, which links climate advocates aged 18-35 in 15 countries and across all sectors, with the aim of bringing about a low-carbon future through changes to law, business practice and human behaviour.

POLLY HIGGINS

Polly is a (non-practising) barrister and environmental activist. Polly advises on EU and international environmental law, with particular expertise in earth jurisprudence. She is a UK Associate of EnAct International, a consultancy that specialises in developing and strengthening governance systems that promote ecologically sustainable societies. For the past two years she has also worked closely with TREC-UK, a network of scientists and engineers, to advance the concept of building solar power plants in the desert to provide the world with clean electricity. Polly is the founder of Women in Sustainability and the Environment (WISE Women) – an international network that brings together women who are working on sustainability issues and the environment.

TREWIN RESTORICK

Trewin is the founder and CEO of Global Action Plan – a charity that runs a wide range of practical sustainable development initiatives with companies, schools and community organisations. Global Action Plan has won several awards for its work, including the Third Sector Award for its communication campaigns on climate change and runner-up for the international Alcan Sustainability Award. Trewin is Chair of the DEFRA Compact Group, which is building better relationships between DEFRA and the voluntary sector. He is also Chair of the Environmental IT Leadership Team, is a trustee for the Centre for Environmental Education, and was recently trained as one of Al Gore's UK climate change ambassadors. Trewin is a frequent media commentator on environmental issues, and has appeared on Channel 4 News, BBC Breakfast, national radio and CNN. Trewin previously worked for Friends of the Earth, where he was both Recycling Co-ordinator and Head of Marketing, and for Plymouth City Council and the Dartington Trust. When he was 17, he produced a series of youth programmes for BBC2 called 'Something Else'.

MALACHY CAMPBELL

Malachy is Policy Officer at WWF Northern Ireland where, since 1999, he has worked on a number of different issues including climate change and energy policy, marine issues and the European Habitats Directive. He represents WWF Northern Ireland on the Northern Ireland Marine Task Force and the Climate Change Coalition Northern Ireland. Since 2006 Malachy has been a member of the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the statutory adviser on the environment to the Department of Environment.

PROFESSOR SUE CHRISTIE

Sue has been Director of Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) since 1992. A network of voluntary organisations working on the environment, NIEL facilitates the work of its 51 full members through information, publications, representation and policy work, and provides the secretariat for the Environmental Education Forum. Sue is an ecologist, originally from California but resident in Northern Ireland since 1982. She has worked in the voluntary environmental sector since 1984 – prior to joining NIEL, as Director of the Ulster Wildlife Trust and Project Manager for NI2000. Sue sits on various bodies in Northern Ireland, including the Strategic Waste Board, Forest of Belfast (Treasurer), Sustainable Northern Ireland Programme (Treasurer), Action Renewables and Tidy NI. In April 2002 she was appointed Visiting Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Ulster Coleraine.

DR TIM WALKER

Tim is Head of Waste Management at Belfast City Council, a post he has held for over 10 years. He is responsible for the provision and planning of its recycling and waste management services (excluding waste collection) and for the development and delivery of several environmental initiatives within the city. Tim is the current chair of the Northern Ireland branch of the Technical Advisors Group (which represents the principal technical and environmental officers in Northern Ireland's councils) and represents NILGA (Northern Ireland Local Government Association) on several waste-related topics, including the Department of Environment (DOE) Strategic Waste Board. Previously, Tim was the local chair for both the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Until 2005, Tim also represented the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) on the Waste Management Advisory Board (which oversaw the DOE's implementation of the earlier Waste Strategy for Northern Ireland) and currently he sits on CIWEM's national Waste Policy Group. In 2007, Tim was elected to the local CIWEM branch in Northern Ireland. Tim has a PhD in public sector performance management from the University of Ulster.

JOHN WOODS

John is Director of Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland where he leads a team of five staff and a network of local groups and volunteers in campaigning for a society based on environmental justice and the principles of sustainable development. He is a member of the senior management team of Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) and has observer status on the board of Friends of the Earth Ireland. John graduated from Edinburgh University in 1980, returning in 1991 to obtain an MSc in Social and Public Policy. In the course of his varied career he has also worked in the property business; helped found a youth development NGO in Scotland and an environmental NGO in Nepal; and served as Friends of the Earth Scotland's Senior Campaigner. He returned to his native Northern Ireland in 1994 and became Director of New Agenda, a network established to coordinate civil society input into the political talks process. John is a Lay Magistrate.

Learn more

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

With 51 councillors representing the nine electoral areas across the city, Belfast City Council provides public services and leadership for the city of Belfast
www.belfastcity.gov.uk

BRITISH COUNCIL

The UK's leading international organisation for educational and cultural relations
www.britishcouncil.org

CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (CIC)

A leading research centre, based at New York University, which works to enhance international responses to humanitarian crises and global security threats
www.cic.nyu.edu

CHALLENGE EUROPE

A three-year campaign spearheaded by the British Council that aspires to make a definite and lasting impact on the climate change debate, and is ambitious in its aim to accelerate change to a low-carbon future
<http://challengeeurope.britishcouncil.org>

THE CLIMATE PROJECT

A worldwide network of 2,500 volunteers all trained by Al Gore to educate the public about climate change
www.theclimateproject.org

CONCERN WORLDWIDE

An international humanitarian NGO dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries
www.concern.net

ENACT INTERNATIONAL

A consultancy based in Cape Town, South Africa that specialises in developing and strengthening governance systems that promote ecologically sustainable societies
www.enact-international.com

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland arm of one of the UK's foremost environmental organisations
www.foe.co.uk/northern_ireland

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

An independent charity committed to engaging people in practical solutions to environmental and social problems
www.globalactionplan.org.uk

GLOBAL DASHBOARD

A blog covering international affairs and global risk
www.globaldashboard.org

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The world's most authoritative source of objective scientific information on climate change. The IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007
www.ipcc.ch

NORTHERN IRELAND ENVIRONMENT LINK

The forum and networking body for organisations interested in the environment of Northern Ireland
www.nienvironmentlink.org

NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The government department responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing Northern Ireland's natural and built environment for the benefit of future generations
www.doeni.gov.uk

NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Supported by all five main political parties and all 26 councils in Northern Ireland, the NILGA exists to promote better local government
www.nilga.org

SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND FORUM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (SNIFFER)

A charity aiming to increase knowledge to help protect the environment and improve the quality of life, SNIFFER is currently carrying out research in climate change, land use and water management
www.sniffer.org.uk

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The UK government's independent watchdog on sustainable development

www.sd-commission.org.uk

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland government's independent advisory body on sustainable development

www.sd-commission.org.uk/northern_ireland.php

TOMORROW'S CLIMATE, TODAY'S CHALLENGE

The government's climate change communications initiative launched in December 2005

www.climatechallenge.gov.uk

TREC-UK

A group of volunteers championing the work of the Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation, an international network of scientists and engineers working to find ways of harnessing the clean energy potential of solar and wind power in the world's deserts

www.trec-uk.org.uk

TRÓCAIRE NI

The Northern Ireland wing of Trócaire, an Irish development charity with operations in 39 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East

www.trocaire.org/en/whatwedo/ni

UN ASSOCIATION OF THE UK

The UK's leading independent policy authority on the United Nations and a membership organisation campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN

www.una.org.uk

UN CLIMATE CHANGE GATEWAY

A portal to the work of the entire UN system on climate change

www.un.org/climatechange

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The umbrella treaty of the international climate regime, the UNFCCC was agreed in 1992 to prevent dangerous climate change and find ways of coping with inevitable impacts

www.unfccc.int

WISE WOMEN

A network bringing together women who are working in, are concerned about and want to do more about sustainability and the environment

www.wisewomen.me.uk

WWF NORTHERN IRELAND

Through policy work and communications WWF NI's small team campaigns for change on global issues which are affected by lifestyles in Northern Ireland

<http://ni.wwf.org.uk>